

CLAIMS

1. A method, implemented on a client computing device, the method comprising:

displaying a web page representing a printer to a user, the web page including a user-selectable option to enable private printing on the printer;
receiving a user selection of the option to enable private printing; and
communicating the user selection to the printer.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein receiving the user selection comprises receiving the user selection of the option to enable private printing in the absence of a printer driver, on the client computing device, that supports private printing.

3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein communicating comprises communicating the user selection to a proxy server that represents the printer.

4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein receiving the user selection comprises receiving user-input of a personal identification number (PIN) that is to be subsequently entered at the printer in order to print a document, requested by the user, at the printer.

5. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the PIN corresponds to a single print request.

6. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the PIN corresponds to a single user and multiple print requests for the single user.

7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein communicating comprises communicating the user selection to the printer via a secure connection.

8. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
automatically identifying a user identity of the user; and
communicating the user identity to the printer.

9. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the receiving comprises receiving the user selection prior to receiving a print request to be communicated to the printer.

10. A method comprising:
receiving, at a web service representing a printer, a request to print a document;
receiving, at the web service, an identification of the user;
automatically detecting when the user is in close physical proximity to the printer; and
waiting to print the document until the user is in close physical proximity to the printer.

11. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein automatically detecting when the user is in close physical proximity to the printer comprises detecting when the user is within a threshold distance of the printer, wherein the threshold distance is no greater than a range of a proximity sensor that is part of the printer.

12. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the web service is embedded in the printer.

13. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the web service is included in a proxy coupled to the printer.

14. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein waiting to print the document further comprises waiting to print the document until the user has selected a particular one or more buttons on the printer.

15. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein waiting to print the document further comprises waiting to print the document until the user has entered a particular personal identification number (PIN) at the printer.

16. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the web service receives the PIN from the same computing device as the request to print the document is received from.

17. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the receiving comprises receiving the identification of the user from a client computing device being used by the user, and wherein no printer driver for the printer is installed on the client computing device.

18. One or more computer readable media having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that, when executed by one or more processors of a computing device, causes the one or more processors to perform acts including:

displaying, based on device content received from a network service, an interface including a user-selectable option to enable private printing on a printer represented by the network service;

receiving, from a user of the computing device, a selection of the option to enable private printing; and

sending the user selection to the printer to be used in printing a print request from the user.

19. One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 18, wherein receiving the selection comprises receiving, from the user of the computing device, the selection of the option to enable private printing without a printer driver, for the printer, that supports private printing being installed on the computing device.

20. One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 18, wherein receiving the selection comprises receiving user-input of a personal identification number (PIN) that is to be subsequently entered at the printer in order to print a document, requested by the user, at the printer.

21. One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 18, wherein the plurality of instructions further cause the one or more processors to perform acts including:

automatically identifying an identity of the user; and
sending the identity to the printer with the user selection.

22. A system comprising:

a network service representing a printer;
a client computing device configured to,

execute a network browser via which content representing a printer can be displayed to allow a user of the client computing device to request a document to be printed at the printer,

automatically detect an identity of the user,
communicate the print request and the identity of the user to the network service; and
wherein the network service is configured to,

receive the print request and the identity of the user,
automatically detect when the user is in close physical proximity to the printer by identifying the identity of the user being located on a device within a range of a proximity sensor at the network service, and

waiting to print the requested document until the user has been detected in close physical proximity to the printer.

23. A system as recited in claim 22, wherein the network service is embedded in the printer.

24. A system as recited in claim 22, wherein the network service is embedded in a proxy server coupled to the printer.

25. A system as recited in claim 22, wherein the content representing the printer can be displayed to allow a user of the client computing device to enable a private printing option along with the request for the document to be printed.

26. A system as recited in claim 22, wherein automatically detecting the identity of the user comprises querying an operating system of the client computing device for the identity.

27. A system as recited in claim 22, wherein automatically detecting the identity of the user comprises using a proximity sensor that is part of the client computing device to identify the user identification from a device worn by the user.